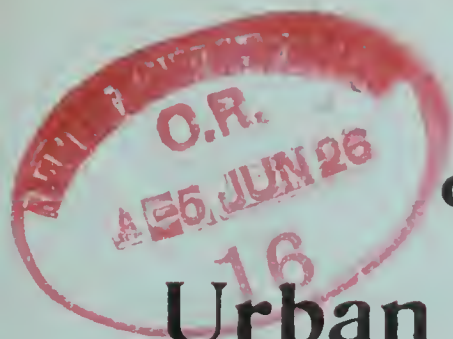


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GODMANCHESTER

Urban District Council.

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REPORT

UPON THE SANITARY CONDITION

OF THE

Borough of Godmanchester,

FOR THE YEAR 1925,

BY

CHARLES E. HICKS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,

Medical Officer of Health.

HUNTINGDON :

W. H. SMITH & SON (late Cooper & Co.) HIGH STREET.



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TO THE GODMANCHESTER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

The Ministry of Health require information on certain subjects. This information is embodied in this report to save extra printing and time.

The population in 1925 was 2068.

The soil proper is gravel, and that of the higher ground Oxford Clay.

The population is mostly connected with agricultural pursuits. There are two Mills working in the Borough. A Hosiery Factory employing a large number of women and girls, also a Flour Mill.

Vital Statistics.

The Births registered were 29, 18 males and 11 females. of these 1 male and 1 female were illegitimate, this gives a birth-rate of 14.02 per 1000 persons living. The Birth-rate for England and Wales is 18.3 per 1000.

The Deaths registered were 24, 12 males and 12 females, an average of 11.6 per 1000 persons living, of these 3 were over 70, 5 over 80 and 2 over 90. The Death-rate for England and Wales is 12.2 per 1000.

Infantile Mortality.

Two children died under one year of age.

Poor Law Medical relief is utilised to a fair extent, principally amongst the older inhabitants, also the Huntingdon County Hospital is used both by Out and In-door patients.

Water Supply.

The Town is supplied by wells but the water in many of them is not fit for drinking, and wells run dry during the summer.

Following a case of Enteric Fever the well at the house was chemically and bacteriologically tested and in both cases it was found unfit for drinking owing to sewage contamination. I am afraid many of the wells in the Borough are in the same condition and it would be better to devise some scheme of waterworks.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Sanitary conditions of the District remain in much the same condition as in previous years. There are 430 pail closets and 20 water closets. This Council must also consider works for a proper drainage and sewage system and thus do away with the very unsatisfactory arrangement of pail closets and the nuisance it entails to the inhabitants of the Borough.

A small extension of 9-inch sewer in Silver Street has been laid.

Inspections.

During the year I have made inspections of the district, accompanied by your Inspector of Nuisances.

Nuisance Inspection is embodied in the Sanitary Officer's Report, *vide* page 6.

Scavenging.

Refuse is collected in an open cart and ploughed into land by farmers at an annual cost of £467.

I hope a covered in refuse cart will soon be purchased by your Authority as it is urgently needed.

Lodging Houses.

There is one registered and properly inspected.

Milk Supply.

The milk supply is wholesome. The Dairies and Cowsheds are generally in good condition. There are many acres of commons and grazing land which is conducive to the healthiness of the cows.

All Dairies are now registered and the milch cows properly inspected.

Food Supply.

No samples of food were sent for analysis.

There are three registered Slaughter-houses in the district and all are clean, periodically inspected and properly licensed.

Infectious and other Diseases.

The following were notified under the Act:—

Pneumonia	...	...	3	One fatal.
Tuberculosis	...	...	2	
Scarlet Fever	...	...	1	Treated in Isolation Hospital.
Erysipelas	...	...	2	
Enteric	...	...	1	
Total			9	

Cancer.

There were 5 deaths from Cancer during the year.

Isolation Hospital.

The District now send cases of Infectious Disease to the Huntingdon Joint Hospital.

Housing.

House accommodation for the labouring classes is of a mixed character. The old thatched cottages are gradually being re-placed by more modern dwelling-houses, and the house accommodation is generally improving. There are a number of houses which are very old, damp and unfit for habitation. Some of these are occupied by large families and there is overcrowding.

On account of this shortage these old delapidated dwellings must be occupied by the inhabitants of the Borough as there are no new houses to transfer them to if the condemned are shut up.

The Council have a housing scheme in contemplation for next year for twenty houses in Cambridge Road, but this number is quite insufficient for the district.

There is plenty of open space about the houses, the cleanliness of the surroundings in some places is not of a high class, the yards being imperfectly paved and gravelled.

CHARLES E HICKS,

HUNTINGDON,
1926.

*Medical Officer of Health,
Godmanchester Urban District Council.*

Sanitary Inspector's Report, 1925.

Number of Inspections made 250

Number of Notices served 91

(Informal 73, Statutory 18)

Complaints received	...	...	Total No. of	19
Premises, Houses, etc.	...	...	No. inspected	117
			Nuisances abated	98
Pool, ditch, gutter, watercourse	...		No. inspected	3
			Nuisances abated	3
Animals improperly kept	...		No. inspected	5
			Nuisances abated	5
Privy, urinal, cesspool, ashpit	...		No. inspected	23
			Nuisances abated	23
Drain, Drain-traps, etc., etc.	...		No. inspected	27
			Nuisances abated	25
House or part thereof, overcrowded			No. inspected	11
			Nuisances abated	—
Offensive accumulations	...	...	No. inspected	21
			Nuisances abated	21
Other sanitary conditions	...	...	No. inspected	65
			Nuisances abated	25
Lodging houses	...	...	No. registered	1
			No. of inspections	6
Slaughter houses	...	...	No. licensed or	
			registered	3
			No. of inspections	12
Infectious Diseases	...	...	Houses affected with	2
			Houses inspected	2
			No. of inspections	2
			Houses disinfected	2
			Disinfectant used	
			Formalin	
Pail or Earth Closets	...	...	New provided	2

Dust Bins	...	...	...	...	New provided	50
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	Samples taken for Analysis	2
					Samples condemned	2

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901.

Workshops	...	...	...	...	Total number on register (includ- ing bakehouses)	9
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	No. on register	4
Home Work	...	...	...	...	No. of outworkers	1
					No. of houses	1

G. STEVENS,

Sanitary Inspector.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Orders.

Dairymen, Cowkeepers and Purveyors of Milk (Milk Sellers)—

No. in District	...	...	...	...	...	25
No. Registered	...	...	...	...	...	25
No. of Inspections of Premises	...	...	...	...	...	55
No. of Inspections during Milking Time	...	...	...	...	...	40
No. of Premises requiring Whitewashing, Cleansing, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	6
No. in which requirements of Sanitary Authority were carried out	...	...	...	...	...	6
No. of Premises requiring Structural or Sanitary Improvements	...	...	...	...	...	2
No. in which requirements of Sanitary Authority were carried out	...	...	...	...	...	2

Premises with Well Water Supply—

No. of	...	...	...	...	...	25
No. of, from which water analysed	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.

Dairymen, Cowkeepers and Purveyors of Milk—(Butter and Cheese Makers)—

No. in District	...	...	...	...	...	13
No. Inspection of Premises	...	...	...	...	...	26

G. STEVENS,

6th May, 1926.

Sanitary Inspector.

APPENDICES.

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

STATISTICS.

Year ending 31st December, 1925.

General.

(1)	Area	...	...	...	...	...	4906 Acres
(2)	Estimated population	...	...	...	...	...	2068
(3)	General death-rate	...	...	...	...	...	11·6
(4)	Death-rate from tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	·9
(5)	Infantile mortality	...	...	...	...	...	·4
(6)	Number of dwelling-houses of all classes	...	...	...	...	...	418
(7)	Number of working-class dwelling-houses	...	...	...	...	...	313
(8)	Rateable value	...	...	...	...	...	£9002
(9)	Sum represented by penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	£36

2.—UNFIT DWELLING-HOUSES.**I.—Inspection.**

(1)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	36
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	...	...	...	...	20
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	—
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	10

II.—Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	...	10
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**Causes of Death in the Borough of Godmanchester,
1925.**

			Males.	Females.
All Causes (Civilians only)	12	12
1. Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...
2. Small Pox	...	...	...	...
3. Measles	...	...	...	...
4. Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...
5. Whooping Cough	...	...	...	..
6. Diphtheria	...	...	...	...
7. Influenza	...	...	..	...
8. Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...
9. Meningococcal Meningitis	...	...	...	...
10. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	...	...
11. Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	2	...
12. Cancer, Malignant Disease	...	...	1	4
13. Rheumatic Fever	...	...	...	...
14. Diabetes	...	...	...	...
15. Cerebral Hæmorrhage, &c.	...	...	...	2
16. Heart Disease	...	...	1	...
17. Arterio-sclerosis	...	...	...	...
18. Bronchitis	...	...	..	1
19. Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	1	...
20. Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...
21. Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	...	...	...	...
22. Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...
23. Appendicitis and Typhlitis	...	...	...	...
24. Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	...
25. Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	...	...	1
26. Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...
27. Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	...	...	...	...
28. Congenital Debility and Malformation Premature Birth	...	...	2	...
29. Suicide...	...	...	...	...
30. Other Deaths from Violence	...	...	...	...
31. Other Defined Diseases	...	...	5	4
32. Causes Ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	...

Ten Years Fatal Cases of:

Year.	Cancer.	Phthisis and Tubercular Disease.
1916	3	2
1917	4	5
1918	2	1
1919	5	3
1920	1	2
1921	1	4
1922	0	3
1923	4	1
1924	3	2
1925	5	2
	28	25

